

Experience trumps odds when it comes to gambling

Brian Murphy

Psychology researchers at the University of Alberta have found an interesting wrinkle in the decision making process people use when gambling: People confronted with risky choices respond differently when they rely on past experiences, rather than when they just focus on the odds of winning or losing.

The research team gave people two kinds of choices. One was a choice between a sure win versus a double-or-nothing win. The other choice was between a sure loss versus a double-or-nothing loss. In some cases the odds were explained to the volunteer gamblers, and sometimes the players were just left to learn their chances through their experience playing the game.

Surprisingly, most people made the exact opposite choices when they were told the odds, opposed to when they learned about them on their own. With experience, the test subjects started to gamble on the double-or-nothing for wins and they avoided the risky choice for losses. Their gambling tendencies were reversed when they were told the odds.

"We think that people choose in fundamentally different ways when they are remembering their past wins and losses than when they are thinking about abstract future possibilities," said U of A researcher Marcia Spetch. "When basing choices on memory, people may focus more on the bigger wins and the bigger losses."

Beyond this novel finding, this research provides a new task for studying gambling behaviour that may one day help in understanding risky choice behaviour and gambling addictions. "A follow-up study is being conducted using the same gambling task," said Spetch. "But this time the participants will be hooked up to MRI equipment to identify areas of the brain involved in risky decision making."

The research was led by Spetch and Elliot Ludvig from the U of A's departments of psychology and computing science. Ludvig is now a researcher at Princeton University. The research was published June 1 in the journal *PLoSOne*. ■

A feather in the FAB Gallery's cap



Renewable resources' John Acorn lends a hand to Merle Patchett to install "Fashioning Feathers" at the FAB Gallery. The exhibit explores the complex geographies of collection, production and consumption behind the making of feather fashions. The exhibit runs until June 11.

Marshall accepts provost position at the University of Calgary

Michael Brown

After 30 years of accomplishments at the University of Alberta, Deputy Provost Dru Marshall has accepted the position of provost and vice-president academic at the University of Calgary, effective Aug. 1.

"Dru Marshall has been a valued colleague in the various roles she has played at the University of Alberta: as vice-dean in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, as a scholar in the area of childhood obesity and children's fitness and as a successful coach of university and national field hockey teams," said U of A Provost Carl Amrhein. "Dr. Marshall has served as a trusted adviser and productive leader in the Office of the Provost, and those of us who have served with her on General Faculties Council, Deans' Council and other campus-wide governing and advisory committees will miss her voice as we wrestle with issues and initiatives that shape the future of this university."



Dru Marshall

Marshall has served as deputy provost since June 1, 2007, distinguishing herself as an intense advocate for post-secondary education and a dynamic champion for the U of A. In her time as deputy provost, Marshall has emerged as one of Alberta's most experienced academic leaders and administrators, and

is responsible for a broad portfolio that includes the university's academic budget, strategic initiatives and academic quality assurance. She has been the key provincial government liaison for the U of A on academic budget, enrolment, tuition and other academic issues, and has been the lead on major strategic initiatives with organization-wide impact such as the university's institutional access plan. She has also been the regional chair for U of A's international strategies in Brazil and Mexico.

"I left the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation for the opportunity to work with Carl—and I couldn't have asked for a better mentor—and be part of President Indira

Samarasekera's vision for the university," said Marshall. "What I didn't realize was how strong the entire team of vice-presidents was, how each is a great leader in their own right and how fortunate I was to be able to be part of such a great team."

As one of Canada's most recognized and respected experts in the field of exercise physiology, Marshall has participated in numerous national and provincial committees and on advisory boards that have shaped public policy in the areas of health, wellness and physical activity. Prior to her appointment as deputy provost at U of A, Marshall held a series of increasingly senior roles in the university's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, including vice-dean, associate dean (academic) and assistant dean (undergraduate programs).

Marshall is highly regarded for her work about women in sport and physical activity. The Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity, or CAAWS, has twice recognized her as one of Canada's most influential women in sport in Canada. She is a sought-after speaker and presenter at academic, government and associa-

tion conferences and events across Canada, and is currently chair of CAAWS. She has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, more than 60 reports, manuals, abstracts and articles, and has contributed to over 60 research projects.

Throughout her career, Marshall has been involved at the highest levels of amateur sport as a coach, trainer and physiologist. She helped lead the National Women's Field Hockey Team to medals in the 1999 Pan Am Games and the 2001 Americas Cup. She has a long list of coaching awards and continues to mentor young coaches today. Marshall currently serves on two editorial boards for coaching journals.

Marshall will remain in her position as deputy provost until June 30.

Marshall says she has great memories from her time at the U of A and is grateful for the opportunities she had as both a graduate student and a member of the faculty. "The University of Alberta is a place rich with history and tradition, but the most important resource that it possesses are its people. They are special, and I consider myself lucky to have been a part of things here for the past 30 years." ■

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folio

Volume 48 Issue 19

Office of the Vice-President
(University Relations)
Marketing and Communications
6th Floor, General Services Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1

Acting Editor

Michael Brown
michael.brown@ualberta.ca

Contributors

Bev Betkowski, Michael Brown, Richard Cairney, Michael Davies-Venn, Raquel Maurier, Jeff Morris, Brian Murphy, Quinn Phillips, Christopher Thrall

Graphic Design

Marketing and Communications

folio's mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the university community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. folio is published 23 times per year.

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Inquiries

Comments and letters should be directed to Michael Brown, acting editor, 780-492-9407
michael.brown@ualberta.ca

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debbie.keehn@ualberta.ca

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University announces 2011 TLEF grant recipients

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's support of learning beyond the classroom was given a shot in the arm recently as the Office of the Provost announced the 11 new projects that will benefit from the university's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund.

"The fund has been a catalyst for realizing the commitment laid out in *Dare to Deliver* to enhance discovery learning and strengthen student engagement in their studies, as well as become more active in the university and wider community," said Colleen Skidmore, vice-provost (academic programs). "For instructors, it has fostered the development of innovative, active learning environments and teaching skills, as well as a deepened understanding of the processes of teaching and learning."

The fund, launched in 2006, is a key initiative in support of the U of A's *Dare to Deliver* vision document. The purpose of the fund is to support those engaged in teaching at the university, allowing them to improve their teaching skills, enhance their understanding of teaching and learning processes and provide teaching environments to optimize the student experience.

Jana Grekul, professor in the Department of Sociology, received a TLEF grant of \$31,687 for her project entitled "Community Service-Learning in a Large Introductory Sociology Class."

Through meaningful engagement with non-profit community agencies and critical reflection of the experience, Grekul says her students will integrate both sources of knowledge into a new form of learning. She says the project is innovative in that it aims to implement community-service learning in a large introductory sociology class—180-plus students—for the first time on campus.

Grekul says projects might include arranging a Food Bank drive,

a Habitat for Humanity project, participating in the annual Homelessness Count, or working with any number of community agencies. The objectives of her project are to: introduce CSL to a large classroom and expose many first-year students to this transformative pedagogical approach, while producing a short, practical guidebook on using CSL in large classrooms for instructors and community agencies.

"For undergraduate students, the goal is to have them engage with the community in such a way as to bring the course material to life, to illustrate to them that what we talk about and read about in the classroom has merit and value in terms of understanding the community—and the social issues facing our community—within which we live," said Grekul.

Ultimately, she says the hope is that "transformative learning" will occur—that the students will be able to connect, with the help of instructors, classroom and community-based experiences to walk away from the course with a deeper, more meaningful educational experience.

"I also think the project has the potential to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to really get to know their fellow students and build the kinds of friendships and bonds that often are difficult to form in large classrooms," she said.

Grekul says it is important for the university to support such projects because "teaching brings research to life, and research facilitates good teaching."

She says, "Teaching is how we produce future researchers, future community activists, future teachers—where would we be without it? The Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund is integral to furthering not only research into best teaching practices, but providing the support for innovation in pedagogical practices. It is this type of funding that provides much-needed support for innovation in teaching." ■



Jana Grekul

Quick as a bunny



A campus rabbit has free reign inside the construction barricades north of Quad.

2011 TLEF recipients

Department of Philosophy

- Robert Wilson – *Building Collaborative Communities for Critical Inquiry* (\$112,332)

Campus Saint-Jean

- Donald Ipperciel, Georg Peschke, Roger Moore and Hassan Safouhi – *Mathematical Suite for Moodle* (\$90,228)

Health Sciences Council / Education

- Sharla King, Mark Hall, LuAnne McFarlane, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbara Norton, Teresa Paswalski, Lisa Guirguis and Kent Stobart – *Integration of Interprofessional Competencies in Health Science Programs: Building a Bridge from the Classroom to Practice Environments* (\$131,053)

Department of Family Medicine

- Shelley Ross, Sarah Forgie, Michel Donoff and Paul Humphries – *Evaluating the Competency-Based Achievement System: Implementation Beyond Family Medicine* (\$22,837)

Department of Pediatrics

- Sunita Vohra and Sarah Forgie – *CAM Fair: An Interdisciplinary Teaching Intervention for Health Sciences Students* (\$23,090)

Faculty of Nursing

- Karin Olson, Greta Cummings, Robert Hayward, Manal Kleib and Anne Sales – *Health Informatics in Baccalaureate Nursing Education: Effectiveness of Lecture vs. Online Learning Approaches* (\$17,538)

Department of Physical Therapy
Bernadette Martin, Robert Haennel, Jason Daniels and Ric Johnson – *Evaluation of the Augustana MScPT Project: A Distributed Learning Model for Physical Therapy Education* (\$84,958)

Department of Biological Sciences

- Julia Focht – *Development of a Web-based, Interactive, Simulated Fermenter for Teaching Micro 415 Industrial Microbiology and Renovation of Course Content* (\$15,000)

Department of Physics

- Al Meldrum, John Beamish and Gregory Thomas – *Transforming the Undergraduate Physics Laboratory Experience: A Guided Inquiry Approach* (\$137,579)
- Sharon Morsink, Craig Heinke and Gregory Sivakoff – *Enhancing Astronomy Education through On Campus Telescopes* (\$55,507)

The abstracts of each TLEF recipient has been posted at www.provost.ualberta.ca/awardsandfunding/tlef.aspx. folio will be featuring a different TLEF recipient every issue for the next few months.

Physical therapy professor spends day in wheelchair for charity

Jeff Morris

A physical therapy professor took a seat for what's right May 27. Jaynie Yang, a researcher in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, spent the entire day in a wheelchair to raise awareness and funds for the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

The fundraiser was the second Chair-Leaders Enabling Access event to take place in Edmonton. By donating her time, Yang hopes to allow the Canadian Paraplegic Association to continue working towards its goal of a barrier-free society.

"The CPA has been very helpful to me over many years, so I'm happy to help them," said Yang.

As a physical-therapy researcher, Yang says she fully understands the difficulties that individuals in wheelchairs face and the assistance that the CPA provides them. "I've been studying individuals with spinal-cord injury for many years, so I know first hand that CPA does great work with victims of spinal-cord injury throughout the province," she says.

CPA officials say they hope that the experience gives participants a sense of what life is like for individuals in wheelchairs.

viduals in wheelchairs.

"Our goal is to help individuals with mobility disabilities achieve independence, integration and acceptance while allowing full community participation," said Aaron Tarnowski, community development co-ordinator with the CPA's Alberta division.

The annual Access event calls for respected community leaders to spend an entire work day conducting their business from a wheelchair. This year's event saw Yang participate alongside 23 other Edmonton community representatives, including Mayor Stephen Mandel.

The day began at the Terwilliger Community Recreation Centre, a facility that recently won an award for innovation in accessibility. Participants maneuvered obstacle courses inside before heading off to start their day.

"I do a lot of running around normally, so being in a chair really limited things for me," says Yang. "I also had to clean my office so that the wheelchair could get to my desk."

Yang and the CPA will be collecting pledges until June 10. For more information on how to donate, visit www.cpa-ab.org. ■



Jaynie Yang is flanked by third-year mechanical engineering student Sarah Lawrence (left) and second-year neuroscience student Mary Mitton.

University welcomes Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research

Bev Betkowski

The first academic centre of its kind in Canada, dedicated to Métis research, was announced May 31 by the University of Alberta and the Rupertsland Institute.

The Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research is the culmination of a decade-long partnership between the U of A and the Métis Nation of Alberta, and will co-ordinate and sustain academic research activity with and for Métis communities.

Based in the U of A's Faculty of Native Studies and jointly funded by the Métis Nation of Alberta and the U of A, the centre's wide-ranging areas of research will explore Métis rights, history, land use, resources and contemporary issues such as education and health.

"The Faculty of Native Studies is deeply committed to collaborating with communities," said dean Ellen Bielawski.

"The Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research recognizes and furthers a partnership with the Métis Nation of Alberta. We are so pleased that the creation of this centre deepens the University of Alberta's commitment to community-driven research, to undergraduate student research experiences and to building Aboriginal community capacity."

Leading the centre as research director is professor Frank Tough, associate dean of research in the Faculty of Native Studies. His work as a historical geographer led to the establishment of the Métis Archival Project Lab, or MAP, a cutting-edge initiative that has resulted in a rich database of information that will, in turn, power further research into Métis issues. The new centre builds upon years of research experience between MAP and one of its leading collaborators, the Métis National Council.

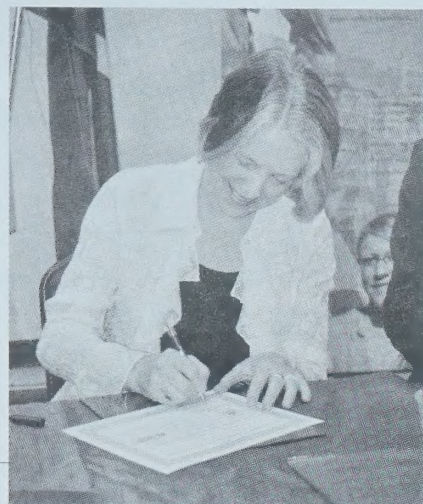
"We look forward to building an enduring, mutually beneficial partnership," Tough said. "This allows for an expansive academic research program that will build local, provincial and national connections with Métis communities, and training and employing student researchers is expected to be one of the central components of such a relationship."

The research centre will also complement the Rupertsland Institute, which was recently mandated by the Métis Nation of Alberta to deliver education and training initiatives and to partner with the U of A to establish a formal centre dedicated to Métis research. As it begins its work, the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research will carry on the Métis Archival Project and at the same time, establish a think tank to guide and address Métis research questions.

"We are very excited about the potential of an academic centre that is designed to address our longstanding deficit in research capacity," said Audrey Poitras, president of

the Métis Nation of Alberta and a board member of the Rupertsland Institute.

"Adding research capacity to Métis governance brings a whole new dimension to our provincial council decision-making process and, in keeping with the U of A's promise, will uplift our community as a whole," Poitras said. ■



Bev Betkowski

Faculty of Native Studies dean Ellen Bielawski signs the documents that official create the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research.

Language revival takes to the Internet

Michael Brown

The spoken word has a University of Alberta ally taking her fight to revive one of Canada's oldest languages to the Internet.

Dorothy Thunder, a sessional Cree language instructor in the Faculty of Native Studies, is heading a team in the midst of finalizing an online Moodle version of introductory Cree, which is expected to be ready for September.

The Moodle platform is an open-source web application software package the U of A uses to help educators create online courses with a focus on interaction and collaborative construction, and is designed for continual evolution. The university's virtual learning class, the Elluminate classroom, will support the online material that requires further explanation.

"We wanted to find a way to better reach outside communities," said Thunder, who has experience with online instruction, having taught

Cree for Sunchild E-Learning, a distance-learning program designed for Aboriginal youth, for the past three years. "I have had numerous phone calls from people wanting to learn Cree but can't take time away from their work schedule to actually come here to take the course. 'That's when we thought we would develop something online.'"

Thunder, who has been an instructor on campus since 2002, says developing an online written curriculum for a language that is largely oral has had some challenges, but the finished product should give those interested in learning the basics of Cree a firm grasp of the language.

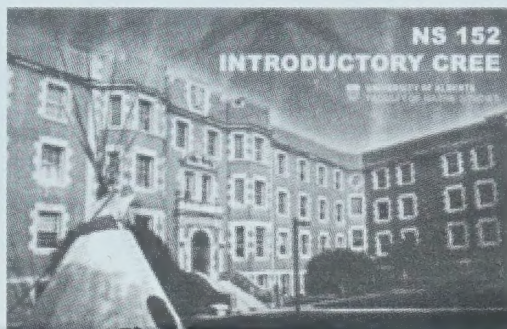
that Cree is based on "animacy," a type of language that bases characteristics of its nouns on their sentient or living nature. "Certain

verbs go with certain nouns, depending on their animacy. Once students have an understanding of that, Cree can be fairly straightforward."

Thunder says that, in a typical classroom setting, she will often use group work as a tool for learning Cree, and says she is hopeful that she can capture that dynamic in the virtual setting.

"I don't ever want my classrooms to be something where I am doing everything and the students are just copying," said Thunder.

"I want to ensure the classroom is a comfortable environment where students know it's OK to make mis-



Introductory Cree will be offered online this September.

takes and expand their knowledge."

Thunder, who is also actively involved with the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute, says she is counting on a good response to this online introductory Cree class from those working with Aboriginal communities—some of whom have been calling for a class of this nature—but fully expects students with a number of varied backgrounds to take on the language.

"That's what I like about the university—the diversity of students," said Thunder. "There are a lot of things happening here and changing all the time."

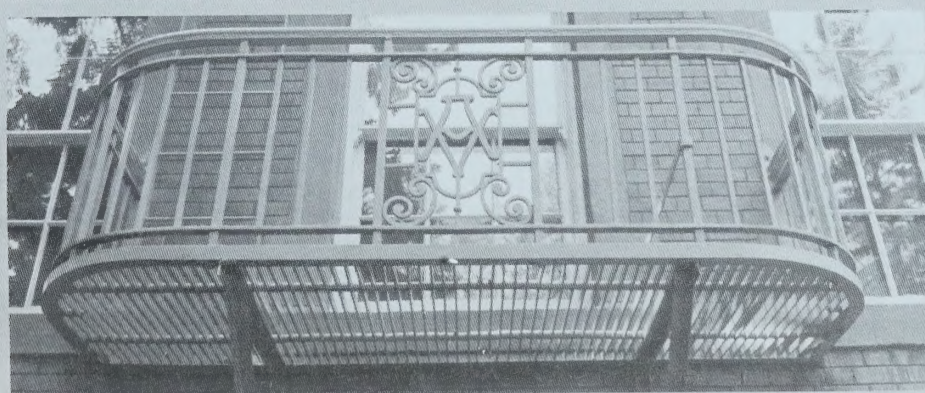
The Moodle project is part of outgoing native studies dean Ellen Bielawski's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant for the Cree program and features input from incoming interim dean Nathalie Kermoal and Nicole Lugosi, a junior Cree professor in the faculty. ■

"We wanted to find a way to better reach outside communities."

Dorothy Thunder

"Some say it is a difficult language to learn with all its complexities, but once they get into the course they always have fun working with it," said Thunder, explaining

Are You a Winner?



Congratulations to Elizabeth Adolf, whose name was drawn as part of folio's May 20 "Are You a Winner?" contest. She correctly identified the photo in question as being the back side of the tipi in front of Pembina Hall. For her correct answer, Elizabeth has won a trusty U of A-issue stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A bookmark.

Up for grabs this week is a copy of "Hockey's Quiet Revolutionary, Clare Drake: The Coaches' Coach" by Derek Drager. To win this coffee-table mainstay, simply identify where the above balcony is situated and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, June 10, and you will be entered into the draw.

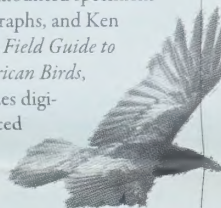
Correction Eating crow

Michael Brown

On the cover of the May 20 edition of *Folio*, we featured a photo titled "The Art of Flight," which showed a corvid-type creature we identified as a crow. A number of emails let us know that the bird in question was actually a common raven.

Ronald McElhane, professor of biochemistry and biophysics and amateur bird watcher, consulted what he considers the two leading field guides currently available on this matter: David Sibley's *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, which is based on very accurate paintings of birds from mounted specimens and photographs, and Ken Kauffman's *Field Guide to North American Birds*, which utilizes digitally enhanced photographs supplemented with drawings.

"The relatively less broad but very long wings, the wedge-shaped tail and especially the relatively large bill, which forms an almost straight line with the top of the head, are all reliable field marks for the common raven. The American crow, in contrast, has shorter wings, a more fan-like tail, and a proportionally smaller bill, which does not form a nearly straight line with the head, giving the crow a much more prominent 'forehead.' In addition to these field marks, common ravens are frequent and very accomplished soarers, often being mistaken for soaring hawks, while American crows do not soar and then only for short distances. Both species of corvids (jays, magpies, crows and ravens) are common on campus, and I have often seen common ravens soaring around the Education Centre," wrote McElhane. ■



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Reproduction: Male & Female Infertility, Low-energy, Menopause S, Prostatitis, Dysmenorrhea, Menoxenia, etc....

Soft-tissue: Stubborn injuries & strain, Backache, Sciatica, Arthritis, Bursitis, Tendonitis, Frozen Shoulder, etc....

Skin: Server Eczema/Psoriasis; Alopecia, Hives, Shingles, etc....

Others: hemorrhoid, Diabetic-Gangrene, Raynaud's S, Rheumatism...

Etc....



The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

— WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

CONGRATULATIONS

to our inspiring colleagues recognized recently at the Teaching Awards Reception hosted by Provost Carl Amrhein

3M National Teaching Fellowship

Scott North	Oncology
Billy Streen	Physical Education & Recreation

Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Daniel Barreda	Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science and Biological Sciences
John Nychka	Chemical & Materials Engineering

Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Kim Fordham	Augustana
Lise Gotell	Women's Studies Program
Suzanne Kresta	Chemical & Materials Engineering
Mitchell McInnes	Law
Janet Scott Hoyt	Music
Nesé Yuksel	Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Teaching Unit Award

Smart Condo Design Course

Robert Lederer	Art & Design
Lili Liu	Occupational Therapy
Ioanis Nikolaidis	Computing Science
Greig Rasmussen	Art & Design
Cheryl Sadowski	Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Eleni Stroulia	Computing Science

William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Anne Boerger	Campus Saint-Jean
Lisa Prichard	Biological Sciences

Thanks for giving us great stories to tell about teaching excellence at the University of Alberta.

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Three rules of university real estate: location, location, potential

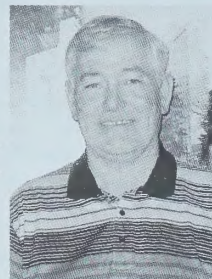
Michael Brown

The University of Alberta is a leading university in North America for a number of academic reasons, but from the perspective of Craig Moore, director of Real Estate Services, it is also coveted for its land, buildings and potential.

At the top of Moore's list of enviable traits are the four light rail transit stations that connect Enterprise Square to South Campus and the 600 acres on South Campus that could be developed over time.

"The South Campus, which was purchased in 1929/1930, is the second biggest undeveloped land in Edmonton after the downtown airport," said Moore. "South Campus has always been used for agriculture research and that may change in time, but what do you do with the land? UBC is isolated and the University of Toronto is landlocked in the downtown, which means they would have to start getting into satellite campuses if they wanted to expand. The U of A has tremendous opportunity to grow because of good planning. It is an unbelievable position to be in."

Regardless of what South Campus becomes, Moore's office, Real Estate Services, will have a hand in its future. The eight-person office advises the university on the best use of its real estate assets and provides comprehensive real estate services in support of the U of A's vision and strategic initiatives. At the top of the list of responsibilities of this office are acquisitions and dispositions of real estate, including all necessary due diligence associated with these transactions.



Craig Moore

"Things come up every day that I like to call strange and unique," said Moore.

For instance, when long-time university supporters Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart informed the university that they wanted to donate their Edmonton home and the surrounding lands to the U of A, Moore says his office was instantly involved, performing appraisals, geotechnical studies and completing environmental assessments.

"When it comes to accepting land, an environmental assessment is compulsory," said Moore, using the Edwin and Ruth Mattheis gift of their family ranch near Duchess in late 2010 as an example. "When you are talking about doing an environmental assessment on a 12,000-

acre ranch with 150 gas wells, that is a major undertaking that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Moore says his office has been part of some other major university initiatives, including the purchase of College Plaza land in 1997 for \$45 million, the negotiations to run the LRT through the main campus and the purchase of what is now Enterprise Square in downtown Edmonton in 2005.

"That was the university's first major [real-estate deal] off campus," said Moore of the purchase of the old Hudson Bay building in the downtown core. "To take a position off campus has huge implications and involves a lot of work, and a lot of time talking to lawyers."

Moore says his office also is on the front lines of negotiating and

University 101

administering leases entered into by the university, either as a tenant or as a landlord, both on and off campus. Landlord duties include HUB Mall, which houses about 50 occupants and is run by Marlene Hamblin in the real estate office. All told, he says, the university owns 1,185 acres of land in Edmonton, 25,000 acres outside of Edmonton, rents another 600 acres in Edmonton and 50,000 acres outside the capital region, and leases office space in other parts of Canada, including the space used by the U of A's Calgary Centre.

With so much land and building involved, Moore says planning is a painstaking process.

"The unique part of being a university is you are here forever, and that is highly unique in the real estate business," he said. "How do you know you're not going to need a piece of land 250 years from now?"

Compounding the planning process is that the U of A is an open and transparent public organization, which is a concept that Moore says is in conflict with the very essence of real estate dealings. Moore uses the purchase of a house to illustrate one of the challenges of his office. He says once buyer and seller agree on price, the focus shifts to timing.

"Possession might be two weeks, maybe a month, but if I said we'll buy it in a year, you would say I was crazy," said Moore. "But those are the time lines we deal with. We have board committees and different levels of approval, which can take three to six months, minimum."

"We deal with the public's money and there are huge responsibilities that go with that." ■

Convocation reinforces a job well done the open door

Indira Samarasekera
President and vice-chancellor

June has arrived, and with it comes the University of Alberta's celebration of convocation. Before I became president, I hadn't given much thought to how much convocation matters to the institution as a whole. Of course, I've taken delight in my own children's convocations and I've been proud to see some of the students under my supervision cross the stage. Before I became president, however, I largely thought of convocation as a ceremony marking a personal milestone in an individual's life, but now that convocation has become a major presence and responsibility in my life, I think about it quite differently. And I've had a lot of time to think about it during the dozens of ceremonies I've now attended over the last six years.

For those of us—such as the chancellor, the board chair, the registrar, and other members of the ceremonies team—who attend two ceremonies for several days in a row, the repetitive and ritualistic nature of convocation can challenge the dedication in all of us. But, in reality, it is not as difficult to endure as it might seem. When you are there on stage every morning and afternoon,

looking into the face of each student, shaking each hand in congratulation, you are reminded that, for most of our students, this experience is unique and momentous. Most will only graduate from university once, and so, for them, every reiteration of the convocation ceremony is as meaningful and important as the last.

Even through the repetitions, references to the U of A's history, motto and traditions throughout the ceremony lend an emotional force to the university's deepest-held values, as does the pride we take in awarding honorary degrees to truly exceptional individuals. When you're there, you can see that these values seem to resonate within students more powerfully than at any other time, opening the door to a lasting connection. With thousands of students crossing the stage each spring, convocation is also clearly a substantive, and often moving, public demonstration of the fulfillment of our core mission and obligation to our students, their parents and the public we serve.

Perhaps, most importantly, I like that convocation is a reminder that we are part of something much larger than any one of us standing alone. There are about 240,000 living U of A alumni worldwide, all making contributions to their communities. Convocation is an annual opportunity for me to stop and remember this, and to know that our work has real and positive consequences, both on individual lives and the broader society. If you haven't attended in awhile, I encourage you to sneak in one day next week and see and feel for yourself why convocation matters. ■

“I like that convocation is a reminder that we are part of something that is much larger than any one of us standing alone.”

Indira Samarasekera

Measuring attitudes towards rural sustainability leads to McCalla

Bev Betkowski

A small South American community's experiment with eco-friendly industry will soon make it into a University of Alberta classroom, thanks to one of the university's newest McCalla professors.

Debra Davidson has won a McCalla Professorship from the U of A to further her research into rural sustainability, studying four resource-based communities that are based in Alberta, and one thousands of miles away in Colombia.

The award is named after the first dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Arthur G. McCalla. McCalla Professors are chosen for their excellence in teaching, acknowledging the importance of students, conducting themselves ethically, and being collaborative, open to change and committed to integrating their research and teaching.

Davidson, professor in the Department of Rural Economy, is studying the vulnerability of rural communities reliant on forestry to climate change. Using as samples the northern Alberta communities of Peace River, Hinton, Jasper and Manning, she is exploring attitudes and what residents see as the future vision for their communities. Linked with that is her research in the Colombian town of Puerto Carreno, where Davidson is studying how the community is reacting to new eco-friendly industry—in this case, forestry plantations. She wants to gauge local feelings on such new ventures in an area traditionally reliant on fishing, cotton and beef production.

"The findings will indicate whether new economic enterprises are going to take off or whether they will meet with resistance."

The McCalla Professorship, as well as being an honour, brings with it the valuable opportunity to focus more closely on the research and more importantly, combine it with her teaching, Davidson said.

"This award supports exploratory research that isn't necessarily at a state where it can attract funding from large granting institutions. I'll now have more latitude to hone in on certain concepts and ideas."

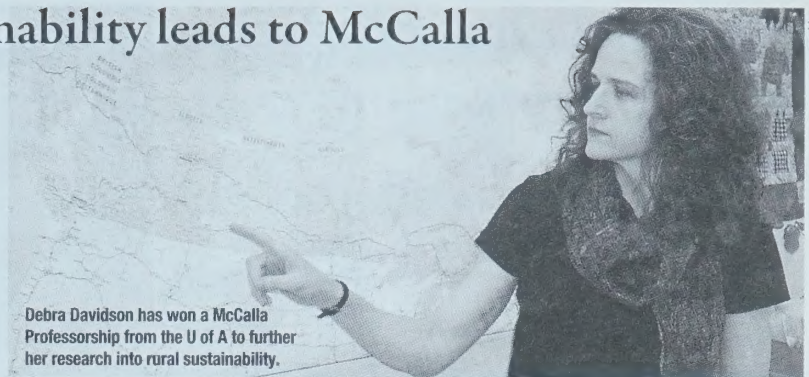
While the Alberta portion of the research is funded by the Foothills Research Institute, the McCalla funding boosts another season of field research in Puerto Carreno. Davidson plans to bring that data into her undergraduate classroom, where environmental and conservation students will grapple with the question—and possible solutions—to bring a new way of thinking to Alberta's resource-based communities.

"I will have some really fresh data and research questions that the students can sink their teeth into, and we can explore that together."

Bringing that research into class will strike a real-life note for many of the students, she believes.

"A lot of students who come through environmental and conservation sciences are from places like Peace River, and they have a personal identity with a rural community. They can relate to the kinds of questions we are asking and can identify with the potential barriers and culture associated with that."

As well, it lets her undergraduate students get close to research. "They can have a better sense of the challenges associated with applied research and some of the excitement that is associated with interpreting firsthand data. They can engage in problem-focused kind of learning, rather than



Debra Davidson has won a McCalla Professorship from the U of A to further her research into rural sustainability.

reading something in a textbook."

Davidson joined the U of A in 1999 as an assistant professor of environmental sociology in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, and became an associate professor in 2004. She is also the director of the Environmental Research and Studies Centre, which promotes educational awareness of environmental issues. As well, Davidson is working on research funded by the Alberta Prion Research Institute, studying

how BSE has impacted Canadian agricultural and regulatory agencies.

She enjoys being part of the U of A, noting it has provided a good foundation over the past 12 years for her unique field of research, exploring the sociological challenges posed by entities like climate change and natural riches like forests and minerals.

"It is a very fertile environment for the kind of interdisciplinary research I like to do." ■

2011–12 McCalla Professorships

Faculty of Arts

Frances Pownall (history and classics)
Susan Smith (history and classics)

Alberta School of Business

Jennifer Jennings (strategic management)

Faculty of Education

Ingrid Johnston (secondary education)

Faculty of Engineering

Warren Finlay (mechanical engineering)

Faculty of Law

Elaine Hughes

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Sarah Forgie (pediatrics)

Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation

John Spence

Faculty of Science

Julia Foght (biological sciences)

Frank Marsiglio (physics)

The abstracts of each McCalla winner has been posted at www.provost.ualberta.ca/awardsand-funding/mccalla.aspx. For the next 10 issues, *Folio* will be featuring each different TLEF recipient.

Head and neck surgeons to shine 'blue light' on cancer fight

Quinn Phillips

For the first time ever, a team of Canadian surgeons, which includes two University of Alberta researchers, is collaborating on a study into a technique for the better identification of oral cancer.

Hadi Seikaly and Jeffrey Harris, professors in the Department of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, are a part of a pan-Canadian Phase III clinical trial aimed at improving outcomes for patients undergoing surgery for oral squamous

cell cancers—a cancer that recurs in 30 per cent of patients.

Surgeons at nine sites across the country will use fluorescence visualization, or "blue light," provided by a hand-held light tool previously used in other cancer treatments. Under the blue light, normal tissues generate a fluorescence, which is absent in tumour or pre-cancerous tissue. The goal of the study is to determine if the fluorescence visualization is able to spare normal healthy tissue from surgery while catching high-risk, pre-cancerous tissues.

Harris says he expects the U of A surgeons will start using the blue light within six months, and is cautiously optimistic this could drastically improve patient care.

"I think that this is an interesting technique that shows promise," said Harris, who got involved while on academic leave in Vancouver. "We look forward to the final study results to see if this technique will provide a significant contribution to cancer care."

Seikaly adds, "This development is very exciting. We hope that it will be

very successful and become the model for national co-operation in the field of cancer treatment."

The five-year study is being funded by the Terry Fox Research Institute, a research investment of \$4.7 million.

"Our investment in this promising study is our response to a serious clinical concern expressed by head and neck surgeons across Canada," said Victor Ling, president and scientific director of the institute. "It has the potential to change surgical practices for cancer of the mouth nationally and internationally." ■

Researchers hope to stop heart disease in cancer patients before it starts

Quinn Phillips

Shelley Vigor was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, just four days before Christmas.

She was devastated to hear that even if she survives the cancer, the treatment is hard on her heart and she could also develop cardiovascular disease.

But Vigor and other breast cancer patients have hope, thanks to two people: Ian Paterson, an assistant professor of cardiology in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta and Edith Pituskin, a registered nurse and PhD candidate in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, who are working on a new clinical trial called MANTICORE. The purpose is to put a stop to cardiovascular disease in breast-cancer patients before it starts, and Vigor is one of the participants.

"Our goal is to look at patients diagnosed with cancer and to detect heart disease and risk factors for heart disease sooner than they are currently being recognized, and treat them aggressively," said Paterson. "We're hoping we can prevent heart disease not only during cancer treatment itself, but also after the cancer treatment is done."

Paterson and Pituskin decided to start with breast cancer patients because it is the leading cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths in women. Treatments have improved drastically over the years, including one drug in particular

called Herceptin.

"The drug has been shown to really improve survival rates of some types of breast cancer," said Paterson, who added that the patients they are working with who take Herceptin have an aggressive type of breast cancer. "Unfortunately it can also damage the heart in up to 20 per cent of women taking this drug.

"We're trying to detect signs of injury much more quickly using special blood tests and special imaging tests like an eco-cardiogram and MRI."

The pair will also try to find out if any of the women involved in the study have cardiac risk factors like high blood pressure, and they'll try to treat those very aggressively.

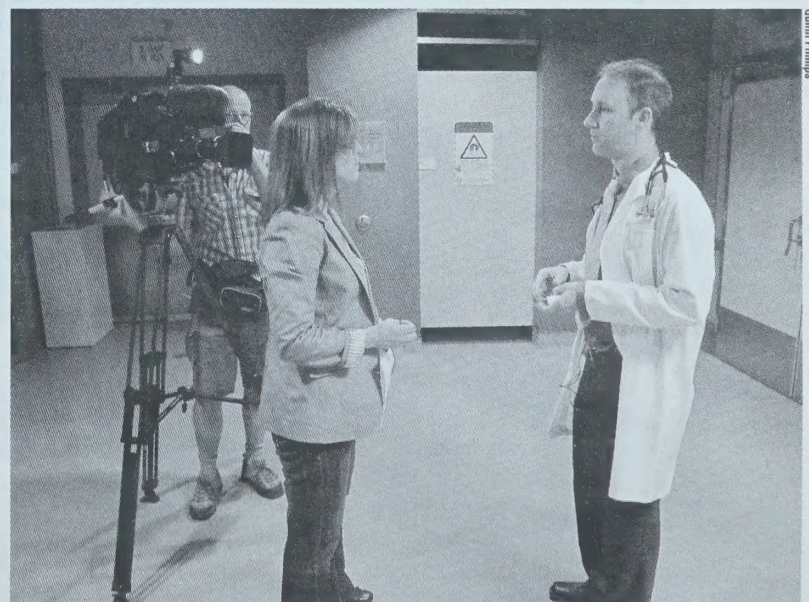
Vigor says its overwhelming thinking about cancer treatment and joining a clinical trial, but she knew she had to do it.

Cardio-oncology is an emerging field of medicine, and he and Pituskin are leading the way, says Paterson. "We're one of the first, and we could serve as a blueprint for other programs," he said, adding that they want to get a number of sites nationally on board with the trials. "Then we'll be able to track outcomes for these patients and develop a registry where we can see how people are doing and whether these clinics make a difference."

And for patients like Vigor, they're pleased this type of work is being done in their hometown.

"Without research and researchers like this team, the prognosis that I would have now would be not as good as it is today," said Vigor. "The opportunity to take part in something like this is very positive for me and I'm very glad to be able to do it."

The researchers conducting the trial want to enrol 159 patients. So far 17 are involved in Edmonton, and the study is adding a centre in Winnipeg and possibly Toronto. The study is being funded by the Alberta Cancer Foundation and Canadian Institutes of Health Research. ■



Cardiologist Ian Paterson talks to the media June 1 in advance of clinical trials looking into heart disease in breast cancer patients.

Support helps technician grow into position

Michael Brown

After 25 years working as a technologist in biological sciences at the University of Alberta, Dorothy Fabijan says she can't imagine any place she would rather be.

She counts the energy she receives from the interactions with students, staff and faculty as among her happiest moments but says the top reason for the daily smile on her face is the support she receives from her colleagues.

"My department has always been supportive of the ideas or projects I have put forward," said Fabijan, who graduated from the U of A in 1984 with a master's degree in plant taxonomy and is responsible for a myriad of duties in the Department of Biological Sciences, including developing lab exercises for undergraduate students, writing lab manuals, preparing material for labs, preparing the teaching assistants with background information and the technical know-how for the labs and acting as a second line of help for anyone who needs it.

"This position in the bioscience department is not just a job, it is a career, and I like that the department recognizes that even though I'm a technical

staff spotlight

staff, I have research interests."

Fabijan, who received the 2011 Nat Rutter Outstanding Technician Award from the U of A chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research

society, is also an assistant curator of the Department of Biological Science's Vascular Plant Herbarium, which is a collection under the umbrella of University of

Alberta Museums.

In this role, Fabijan oversees the

more than 125,000 plant specimens in the collection. Among her main responsibilities with the herbarium is managing the loaning and borrowing of specimens from other institutions around the world, and preparing the use of the herbarium in a dozen or so classes. She is currently nearing the halfway point of building a database for the herbarium, which was started 11 years ago.

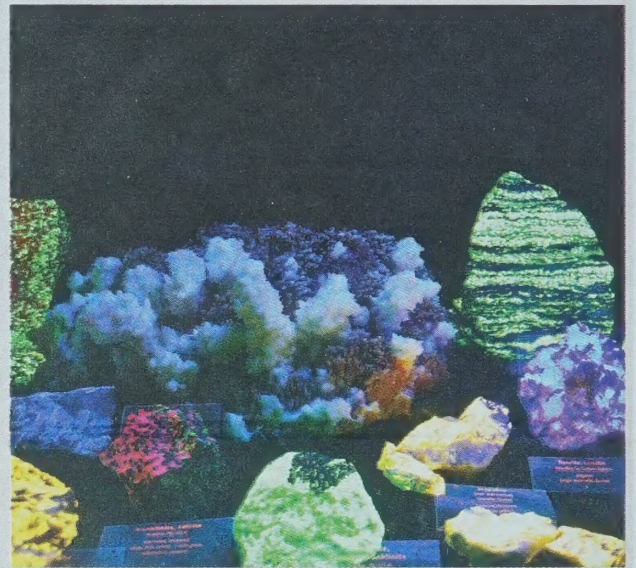
"I really love the work," she said. "I think it suits my personality. I like things to be organized."

Fabijan particularly likes the summer, as it gets her outside to continue with some of the collection projects she has going. Also an avid gardener, she



Dorothy Fabijan volunteers with the Nature Conservancy of Canada by helping catalogue species diversity on conservancy property.

Mother Nature's nightlights



A view of the fluorescent minerals display in the Mineralogy and Petrology Museum, open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the basement of the Earth Sciences Building. Due to the presence of certain trace elements, these minerals emit visible light when illuminated with invisible ultraviolet light. (Photo by Michael Davies-Venn)

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Composting for a greener Augustana campus

Christopher Thrall

This summer, the U of A's Augustana Campus will take another step towards sustainability with an in-vessel composting system. The four feet by 30 feet steel drum, rotated by a single one-horsepower motor, will divert 150 litres of organic waste per day—50 to 70 tonnes per year—from the landfill.

"It's a logical next step," says outgoing Augustana dean Roger Epp. "Through our recycling program, we've taken a huge jump in reducing waste that we generated in the past year—more than 50 per cent, which I think is an amazing number. The composter will take that down a whole lot more."

According to Candice Tremblay, sustainability co-ordinator for Augustana Campus, the goal for the composter initiative is to offset the organics on campus. "Of the waste produced on campus," explains Tremblay, "65 per cent is organic, and 80 per cent of that comes from the cafeteria. In our first year, we will divert all of the cafeteria waste, and the second year we will aim for the rest of campus."

The steel drum rotates all day, with its speed based on the quantity and humidity of material. The organic materials are oxygenated—the rotation accelerating the reactions—and produce their own heat as they decompose. Everything from vegetable peels to table scraps goes in one end. Two weeks later, fine compost pours out the other end.

An annual estimate of almost 20 tonnes of compost will be put to use on campus to assist various landscaping projects, eliminating any reliance on chemical fertilizers, which have not been used on campus for nearly a decade.

There are educational opportunities with the composter as well. Chemistry students will experiment with ideal carbon-based bulking agents, and management students will develop strategies to expand the program.

"This is an exciting development for us," says Epp, "consistent with the direction we've set on focused and deliberate sustainability measures." The project is supported by the university's Office of Sustainability as well as by support from a private donor. "We are taking the call to achieve sustainability in our operations very seriously," says Epp. "If others can learn from what we do, this is good. We are always willing to share our experiences and learning."



Augustana students sort trash during a Campus Waste Audit in fall 2010 as part of Sustainability Week.

Summer space camp reaches new heights

Brian Murphy

School kids attending the University of Alberta's space camp this summer will be helping NASA confirm the reliability of atmospheric monitoring equipment bound for a space mission.

The junior high-school kids will work with U of A graduate students who designed a piece of equipment that monitors space storms, huge electrical disturbances beyond Earth's atmosphere that can disable orbiting satellites. The device will be launched on a giant balloon by NASA this fall in New Mexico.

U of A grad student and project organizer Laura Mazzino says this mission is the real deal.

"The NASA balloon stands five storeys high; it's 3330,000 cubic metres in size and goes up to 27 kilometres above Earth," said Mazzino. The

balloon stays aloft for about 20 hours before it's remotely detonated and falls by parachute to the desert.

"This is a great opportunity for kids interested in space to see testing for a real NASA mission for themselves."

Laura Mazzino

"Kids in both of our five-day camps will take part in the tests using small weather balloons that we launch right here on the U of A campus," said Mazzino. "The whole space storm monitoring device weighs 20 kilograms, so we'll just be testing its smaller components."

And just like the space-camp

weather balloon launched at last summer's camp, there will be a camera onboard recording the launch to an altitude of 30 kilometres. A GPS unit included in the payload will help locate the downed balloon on the outskirts of the city. Mazzino says the wear and tear of the weather-balloon launch and the hard landing will be a good test for the durability of the sensitive solar storm monitoring equipment.

"This is a great opportunity for kids interested in space to see testing for a real NASA mission for themselves," said Mazzino. In addition to launching weather balloons the space campers will build and launch model rockets and get some hands-on time with real meteorites from deep space.

The five-day camps are run by the U of A's Institute for Space Science Exploration and are designed for kids in Grades 7 to 9. The camps run Monday to Friday the weeks of July 4 and 11.

StageLab to emphasize innovation in theatre

Folio staff

A new summer arts festival that emphasizes innovation in theatre will hit Edmonton this June.

Presented by the University of Alberta's Department of Drama in partnership with FEST and the Canadian Centre for Theatre Creation, and generously sponsored by the Timms Theatre Innovation Fund, the new

event, StageLab, will run June 10–29 at the Timms Centre for the Arts. The festival features productions and readings of new work by Canadian playwrights and will be the end result of collaborative creation between department faculty members and other artists.

"The drama department at the University of Alberta is privileged to have some of the most talented practising theatre artists in the country on its faculty," said Kathleen Weiss, chair of the department. "StageLab showcases the creative activity of our faculty in a professional setting and creates a unique context to share innovative ideas about theatre."

StageLab will also reinforce the mandate of the Canadian Centre for Theatre Creation to develop new work for the Canadian stage. While experimenting with ideas surrounding play creation, the CCTC facilitates dramaturgy that embraces innovative uses of media and interdisciplinary arts. The centre also displays a commitment to reflecting Canada's diversity in its choices and to co-producing new work with partners like StageLab.

Festival events include showcase readings of two new plays, *Life Without Secrets* and *Stalker: The Musical*; workshops and performances as part of FEST; and *Vice Versa*, a clown show facilitated by Mike Kennard of Mump & Smoot fame. Forming the nucleus of StageLab are three fully-staged productions:

- *Jane Austen, Action Figure*... and other short plays by Elaine Avila: This collection ranges from the zany to the tragic and examines whether it takes superpowers to be a parent, traveler, lover... or Jane Austen. (June 15–19)

- *Seasons* by Jane Heather: A bipolar woman and a girl living on the streets scrape by in the inner city. Based on the true stories of Edmontonians struggling to make a life on the margins. (June 15–19)

- *The Cave Painter* by Don Hannah: The world premiere of this one-woman show deals with grief and where we put it in order to continue on with our lives. (June 23–26)

All productions will be presented at the Second Playing Space at the Timms Centre for the Arts. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the box office at 780-492-2495. Some events are free. For more information, visit www.drama.ualberta.ca/StageLabFestival.aspx or email StageLab.uofa@gmail.com.

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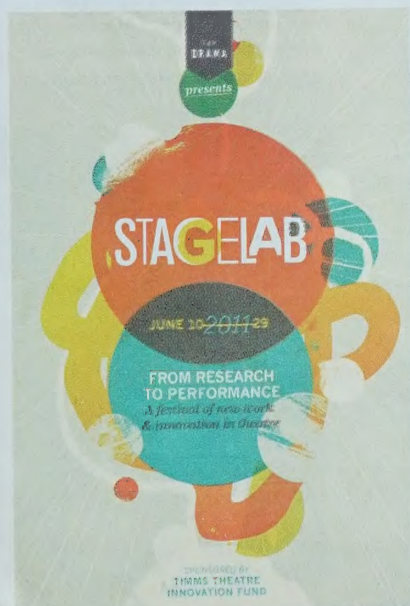
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Researcher receives grant to look at how sleep affects a child's brain development

Raquel Maurier

A researcher with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has been awarded national funding to study how sleep affects neurological development right from birth.

Piush Mandhane, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the study's principal investigator, has received a five-year, \$300,000 grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to help support his overall research, including this sleep study. So far, about 500 Edmonton-area children have been recruited for the study and Mandhane would like to find another 500.

"The broader picture is to follow those families and children to look at how sleep in early childhood affects long-term growth and development," says Mandhane. "For example, the classic problem is the toddler who doesn't want to sleep. We all struggle with a baby who continues to wake up multiple times a night. What we don't know is how that impacts their long-term growth and development. At what point do we say, 'That's not

enough sleep,' or 'That's too bad and we need to do something about it.'"

Pediatric sleep problems are very common and affect up to 15 per cent of children, says Mandhane, who is a pediatric pulmonologist—a doctor who specializes in pediatric sleep and breathing problems.

Mandhane and his research team will look at length of sleep, quality of sleep and sleep problems such as sleep apnea, insomnia and behavioural issues such as toddlers not wanting to go to bed. Examining how early sleep problems occur, the severity of sleep problems and how long sleep problems last, will also be part of the analysis.

Families taking part in the study will fill out quarterly questionnaires and then participate in in-home sleep studies using a portable monitoring device for their children at ages one, three and five so researchers can monitor breathing, heart rate and oxygen levels. Children will also undergo annual neurodevelopmental tests where they will play with various objects, such as blocks or bells, so researchers can observe the children's skills in

areas like language, social development and verbal communication.

"Ultimately, the hope for the project is that, if we can identify what is healthy sleep, we'll be able to translate those findings back to the Canadian public and say here's some ideas on when you should consider you need more help with child sleep," says Mandhane.

Rebecca Harris's daughter, Ainsley, is 17 months old and has been part of the study since she was a newborn.

"I wanted to take part in the study because I like the fact that as a new mom I could have it as a resource for myself," said Rebecca.

The sleep study is part of the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development, or CHILD study, a national project involving 5,000 children born in different parts of the country who will be followed until the age of five. The purpose of the larger study is to examine how environmental factors affect children's health. Any families interested in taking part in the sleep study should call 780-407-8084. ■



Piush Mandhane has received a five-year, \$300,000 grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to help support his sleep study.

Student's memory lives on through a pair of campus fundraisers

Folio Staff

The death of student-athlete Owen Schlosser to cancer two years ago still resonates on the University of Alberta campus. Across two faculties, fundraising events have been created to honour the 22-year-old student who was an "outstanding young tennis player" and, to David Chapman and his peers in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, a good friend.

"[His diagnosis and death four months later] was a difficult time for our group of friends," said Chapman, a mas-

ter's student in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "It was the first time we ever experienced anything like that."

Chapman and friends decided to keep Schlosser's memory alive by putting on a fundraiser for an endowed research chair in skin cancer. On June 4 they hosted the second annual three-on-three street hockey tournament.

The money raised from the tournament will go towards the Mary Johnston Chair in Melanoma Research at the Cross Cancer Institute. Another portion of the funds goes to the Owen Schlosser Endowment Fund through the Edmonton Community Foundation to support

underprivileged athletes.

"I think this is definitely an event that he would have loved to participate in so that's one of the reasons why I'm doing it," said Chapman. "He was a great athlete and a really healthy guy too, so I think an event that promotes healthy living—I think he'd be pretty happy about that."

And, on what may have been one of the windiest weekends in Edmonton's history, more than 125 competitors participated in mid-May in the first Owen Schlosser World Team Tennis Tournament, in support of the Owen Schlosser Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The tournament was organized by Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation doctoral student Camilla Knight, an avid competitive tennis player, and Saville Community Sport Centre's tennis coach Carson Bell.

"As a member of the Golden Bears tennis team, head coach of the Golden Bears summer tennis camps and a part-time coach at the Saville Community Sports Centre, Owen had an enormous influence on the Edmonton tennis community and everyone who was fortunate enough to know him," said Bell. "We felt that when someone has such a positive impact on so many they

deserve to be remembered, so we set about organizing and hosting a tennis tournament in Owen's name."

"The event was a massive success," said Knight. "We'd hoped to make \$10,000 but we actually ended up with \$12,000." Funds will support a scholarship to provide financial assistance to players on the Golden Bears and Pandas tennis teams. "With the help of this scholarship, tennis at the U of A will continue to go from strength to strength and in Owen's memory, the Bears and Pandas hope to become the dominant university tennis team in Canada," said Knight. ■

Art exhibition creates dialogue, raises awareness on 'silent loss'

Michael Davies-Venn

University of Alberta art and design student Emma McLay was a year from finishing her undergraduate degree when doctors found a medical condition that had the potential to threaten her fertility. She and her husband decided to become pregnant earlier than planned—a decision that resulted in a series of complicated miscarriages but eventually the birth of the young couple's first child.

The experiences took her to the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, and it is to women working at the hospital that she dedicates her master's of fine arts in painting thesis show, *Membyronics*, which runs at the FAB Gallery until June 11.

"I owe the women at that hospital my life. This show would not be without them, nor would my daughter," McLay said. "I went through numerous miscarriages and complications. During the last miscarriage, I accepted counseling from the hospital. This was good because I was already in a state of depression from previous loss. These caregivers have saved many lives from being consumed or ended by depression and grief, including my own. They provided me refuge where I could grieve without judgment and gave me tools to cope."

McLay says she hopes the exhibition contributes to a conversation about the silence, lack of empathy and misunderstanding around reproductive difficulties, and hopes that it helps

change public perception on infant and pregnancy loss.

"The way people in our culture react to the families left behind is often insensitive and uneducated," said McLay. "The experience and pain women go through during miscarriages or infant loss is different for everyone, and nobody outside of that individual experience is equipped or qualified to judge how much grief or healing is required."

"With support, parents can learn to carry the memory of their babies, but they need that loss to be respected. I met many women who were feeling incredibly alone and unsupported; not just women, but parents, partners and husbands suffer too."

The exhibit deconstructs perceptions of the female body, especially during reproductive processes, through eight works, each of which reveals a different layer of vulnerability.

"I have thought of my own body as a monument, impenetrable with definable boundaries," said McLay, "but emotional and physical trauma—in my case related to bearing children—takes away that idea."

McLay says the paintings start very contained and show very clear boundaries around the body. Those boundaries begin to open to the point where, towards the end, two pieces flow out to the floor.

"They have no control as they flow right into the viewer's space," said McLay. "The body is no longer acting as a vessel or container of the self." The exhibition also addresses questions

about female identity, such as whether a woman who has had a miscarriage is a mother.

"With a miscarriage, [some] women feel like they've become a mother and yet they have no child to hold," said McLay. "That's a very strange place to be in your identity because I felt like a mother, but I was not fulfilling that role—I was left empty."

McLay says her experiences around pregnancy have changed her. "I'm certainly more mature, and at the same time, I'm more understanding and aware and empathetic," she said.

"It comes down to human empathy. People need to be kinder and more understanding of people who experience these difficulties. There's a lot that needs to be done on this silent loss and much of it has to come from public awareness." ■



Membyronics runs at the FAB Gallery until June 11.

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2011 Spring Convocation

A star on the track and in the classroom

Richard Cairney

It's no secret that the U of A engineering program is challenging. Students need to be creative, apply new knowledge and work together to reach new levels of academic achievement in order to complete the nationally accredited programs.

But they need to balance academics with other activities. It's hard to know how Amanda Schneck, who is graduating with a grade point average of "3.7 or 3.8" on a scale of four, managed to squeeze so many extracurricular activities into her five-year materials engineering-biomedical co-op program.

Schneck attributes it to good time management. During her first year of engineering she became involved with student clubs and joined the Pandas track and field team. As the years passed, she became more involved and committed to academics, sports and student life.

"I didn't watch television as an undergraduate," she said, although she admits that for some people, TV is the perfect way to unwind. Schneck just chose a different activity. Every day after classes, without fail, she trained for the Pandas track and field team. For the past three years, she has been team captain.

That dedication paid off: she broke team records in pentathlon six times in the past two years—four times this season alone. She won bronze at the CIS national track championships this spring, turning in personal bests in hurdles, high jump and the 800-metre run. She was named the U of A's Female Academic All-Canadian of the year.

In student activities, she was recently awarded the Shell Canada Limited Scholarship in Engineering, based on academic standing and involvement in extracurricular activities.

"I didn't watch television as an undergraduate."

Amanda Schneck

As a co-op program student, Schneck completed four paid-work placements, including a research job on campus helping to develop new biomedical materials for stints, and with the Enbridge facilities integrity group. The latter placement, she says, is where she began to hit her stride as an engineer.

"They really gave me a lot of responsibilities. If I was willing to do something, they'd give it to me. My role

grew and I felt respected as more than a student—I felt more like a colleague," she said.

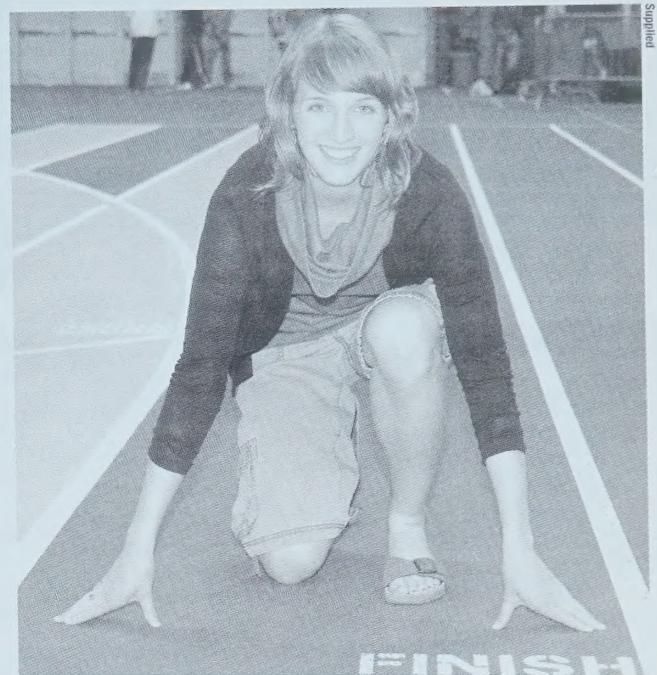
Naturally, she hopes to join Enbridge full time later this year. But for now, she's training for the national track and field championships, competing with Edmonton's Veolo Athletics Club. And she's relishing the opportunity to pursue one of her passions with no distractions.

"I have to admit that sometimes track suffered because I was studying for mid-term exams," said Schneck. "And there were instances where I didn't get to study for a test because I was on the road competing all weekend."

So in the end, she did learn about balance. But there's more.

"With the Pandas and the Engineering Students Society, I learned a lot about group work and communication, about planning and executing things, how to organize tasks and how things work or don't work in terms of co-ordinating and planning events," she said.

As a co-ordinator and associate vice-president with the Engineering Students Society and captain of the track and field team, Schneck knows the path to success: "I think communication skills are the key to success. When you see things go bad there's always lack of communication." ■



Amanda Schneck attributes her ability to succeed academically and in athletics to strong time-management skills.

Multi-faceted grad wins academic medal

Christopher Thrall

Odessa Sherbaniuk has been committed to saving the world since she was five years old. This spring convocation, Sherbaniuk received her bachelor of arts degree in global and development studies—and the Augustana Medal for the highest academic standing.

"When I started at Augustana, I didn't know what I wanted to do," said the Round Hill native and graduate of Bawlf School, adding that all she knew when she started at Augustana was she wanted to save the world. "I found out after four years that you can't save the world—or maybe that the world doesn't need saving."

Sherbaniuk's ideas of travelling to a developing country to fix things evolved as she learned to appreciate local knowledge. "People are quite capable of looking after themselves," she said, "and an issue affecting a community can be best solved with the first-hand knowledge and expertise of the people in the community."

Furthermore, Sherbaniuk says, development doesn't simply cover actions around the world; there is a lot of work that can be done in

Canada, and in Camrose.

While maintaining her position on the dean's list for her grades, Sherbaniuk completed a community service-learning certificate involving 50 hours of volunteer activity and a course dedicated to CSL theory, as well as an international exchange with a



Odessa Sherbaniuk

Mexican community and a three-week trip to study economics and religion in India.

Sherbaniuk bases her success on being invested in the experience at Augustana, where her father is also an alumnus. "It's not just completing assignments, but actually applying the learning in your life. What you put

into it is directly related to what you get out of it. Education requires time and effort to get a positive learning experience."

After receiving her degree, Sherbaniuk will spend the rest of the summer completing a Rural Capacity Internship Program with Augustana's Learning and Beyond office and the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, then consider another internship in Guatemala for four to six months with Sahakarini, a local development agency.

"After that—who knows?" she says. "The possibilities seem endless." ■

PhD graduates with a degree that is one of a kind

Bev Betkowski

Leanna Parker thought she'd grow up to be a scientist, pure and simple, working with microscopes and test tubes.

Instead, she's garnered a cutting-edge degree from the University of Alberta that is not only a proud first for the Faculty of Native Studies but also represents a new way of blending science and sociology.

Parker convokes with an interdisciplinary PhD in environmental sociology and native studies. The degree makes her the first graduate student to convocate in the Faculty of Native Studies with the only degree of its kind currently offered in Canada.

Earned jointly through Native Studies and the Department of Rural Economy in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Parker's parchment pushes social and natural sciences out of their respective boxes and into a rapidly changing world.

"It's becoming difficult to separate the two fields, especially in the area of native studies, where contemporary resource management is a leading issue for Aboriginals," said Parker.

From her days as an undergrad at the U of A, Parker's career as a scholar has focused entirely on native studies, in particular how the identity of indigenous people has been shaped by traditional and contemporary economies—from the fur trade of yesteryear to resource extraction today.

Parker is exploring the complex challenge faced by Aboriginal people: living on the land, which is made more difficult by resource extraction, and the need for a good wage, which is made possible by that same resource-based economy.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1995, Parker was among the first students to earn a master's degree from the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Native Studies. She then taught for five years at Aurora College in the Northwest Territories. Living in the community of Fort Smith, Parker was able to see first hand the complexities of land-claim negotiations and resource management issues from an Aboriginal perspective.

"It was only through being in the community that I saw the background. As much as we try to boil down these situations to black and white, it is far more complex and inter-related."

Her interest in Aboriginal issues began early in life through her father's duties as a social worker on Aboriginal reserves in the Calgary area, where she grew up. "My school lessons taught me that Indians were part of the past, but through my dad's work, I knew it to be otherwise."

Parker loved teaching college, but missed conducting research, so made her way back to the U of A for doctoral studies in 2003, drawn by the work of Frank Tough, a former University

of Saskatchewan professor who had moved to the U of A, and who was conducting his own research into Métis economic history.

Through research for her doctoral thesis, Parker found that while the Aboriginal traditional economy has changed over hundreds of years of contact with non-Aboriginals, "it is still reflective of an Aboriginal identity." Applying that concept to contemporary resource management is the next logical step, Parker believes.

"We have to start looking more seriously at what indigenous knowledge and management practices have to offer industry."

Parker is proud to be the first graduate student in the Faculty of Native Studies and hopes that field of study continues to grow. "We need to shift the relationship between non-Aboriginals and Aboriginals in this country by expanding the minds of the general public, and the university is a great place to do that." ■



Leanna Parker (Photo supplied)

Convocation schedule

June 5 (Camrose)

2:30 p.m. Augustana Campus, Convocation Centre. Honorary Degree: Craig Kielburger.

June 7

3 p.m. Engineering, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Honorary Degree: Ron Triffo.

June 8

10 a.m. Arts (Last names starting with A-K). Honorary Degree: Joe Schlesinger.

3 p.m. Arts (Last names starting with L-Z). Honorary Degree: Palagummi Sainath.

June 9

10 a.m. Education (secondary, adult, diplomas only); Physical

Education and Recreation. Honorary Degree: Louise Hayes.

3 p.m. Education (Elementary degrees only).

June 10

10 a.m. Graduate Studies and Research (doctor of philosophy, doctor of education, and doctor of music degrees only); Medicine & Dentistry. Honorary Degree: Austin Mardon.

3 p.m. Extension.

June 13

3 p.m. Graduate Studies and Research (master's degrees and post-graduate diplomas only); Rehabilitation Medicine (master's degrees only); School of Public Health (master's degrees only). Honorary Degree: Bunny Ferguson.

June 14

10 a.m. Business. Honorary Degree: John Chin Sung Lau.

3 p.m. Nursing; Campus Saint-Jean. Honorary Degree: Karen Luker.

June 15

10 a.m. Science (general degrees only); Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Native Studies. Honorary Degree: Charlie Kakotok Evalik.

3 p.m. Law; Science (honours and specialization degrees only). Honorary Degree: Efim Zelmanov.



news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Record snowpack poses threat

Uldis Silins, professor of forest hydrology in the Department of Renewable Resources, is part of a team reporting that the southern Rockies had the highest snowpack on record at the end of May.

Measurements, which have been collected from between 17 to 42 years depending on the station, are taken from "snow pillows," an electronic device that continually weighs the liquid in the snowpack and transmits the data. From this information, they can see how the snowpack is moving and its weight as it melts. There are five southern stations set up to measure snow pillows, including Allison Pass, Gardiner Creek south of Blairmore, Akamina Pass in Waterton, and two in Montana.

Silins said Alberta Environment takes a manual measurement in March and then begins issuing seasonal flow forecasts. This year, the snowpack continued to increase with another 30-40 per cent added since March. Measurements at the end of May showed a snowpack "quite above average," leading experts to predict a much higher flow for the headwaters.

"The average for the region from these five pillows is 541 millimetres of snow water equivalent (how much water is contained in the snowpack)," said Silins, who has been leading the Southern Rockies Watershed Project since January 2004. "This year, the average for these same five pillows is 940 mm—around 175 per cent more than average."

The positive side is there is likely to be a good water supply, he said. The rest is dependent on Mother Nature and what kind of spring the area experiences. So far, said Silins, there has been a cool spring and the melt has been delayed. Rivers that usually peak towards the end of May or early June will be significantly delayed. The worst scenario is if the typical early summer thunderstorms with a lot of rain occur at the same time as temperatures start to climb. "High river flows particularly in headwaters of smaller streams and even side valleys coming off the Crowsnest River could be dangerous for people."

Engineering education bears fruit

Tanya Herbert is participating in an overseas fellowship in Ghana this summer though the U of A's chapter of Engineers Without Borders, but she makes one thing perfectly clear: "I am not going to Africa to save people."

A fourth-year electrical engineering student, Herbert knows what she is and isn't capable of and she understands that one person can only have so much impact.

"I'm not going there to build a school—I'm not capable of building a school."

What she will do is work with a fruit processing firm to "learn as much as I can about how they do things and what barriers and opportunities there are for more investments," she said.

Herbert became involved with EWB in a round-about way, first going to chapter events that sounded like they'd be fun—but when she learned more about the group's projects and the way it works to help improve lives from an evidence-based position, she was hooked.

"I learned that EWB does things in a really informed way and I thought that was really neat. With EWB, everyone is trying their best to do work that will actually help people and to be smart about how they do it."

"I found it really resonated with my own values."

McLuhan honoured at media conference

From June 23–26, delegates from across the globe will be on campus to attend the 12th annual convention of the Media Ecology Association. This will mark the first time this international convention has been held in Canada. The theme of the event, "Space, Place and the McLuhan Legacy," reflects the University of Alberta's yearlong centenary celebration of the birth of influential scholar and public figure Marshall McLuhan in Edmonton, Alberta on July 21, 1911. The detailed schedule of sessions and registration information is found at <http://mea2011.org>.

Professor emeritus honoured

Bob Hinings, professor emeritus in the Alberta School of Business, received an honorary degree from the Université de Montréal on May 27. Hinings' work in the 1960s and 1970s won him worldwide recognition in the fields of organizational structure, power and change. Although he officially retired in 2002, Hinings remains a keen researcher and is working on reforms in the health-care sector and on organizational change in general, among other projects. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of the U.S. Academy of Management and an honorary member of the European Group for Organizational Studies.

"Bob's contributions to the school are widespread, not only in the area of organizational research, but also as a valued mentor and friend to many. We are proud of his accomplishments and congratulate him on this honour," said Alberta School of Business Dean Mike Percy. ■

Summer job in lab pays more than the bills

Quinn Phillips

Jennifer Lo's early interest in cardiology got her into the lab, and a pair of high-profile research awards has spurred this medical student to pursue her passion.

Lo, who just finished her first year of medical school at the University of Alberta, recently won the National Student Research Forum Award for Best Poster Presentation in two categories: physiology and cardiology. This forum draws students from all of North America and is mainly composed of master's and PhD students.

"Winning this award was definitely a big surprise, and it's very rewarding to have this opportunity," said Lo, who plans to be a cardiologist when she graduates. "It was a really good experience to go to the conference and have a chance to look at all the other fields in medicine."

Lo is starting her third summer in the lab. She has been working with Gavin Oudit, a professor and cardiologist in the Department of Medicine, and Zamanah Kassiri, a professor in the Department of Physiology. Lo's research has helped show that an enzyme, called TACE, acts like a scissor in the heart during heart failure. It cuts a protein called ACE II, which is instrumental in protecting the heart



First-year University of Alberta medical student uses previous summer lab experience to win prestigious poster-presentation awards normally reserved for grad students.

muscle. Now that researchers know TACE plays a major part in heart failure, they'll test their theory on human samples, and this work could lead to a new drug treatment.

"This is a 'molecule-to-patient' project that Jennifer has accomplished over several summers," said Oudit. "We started looking at the molecule and then went on to cells, and we've done some work in animal models. Now we have the chance to look at heart-failure samples from patients."

Oudit couldn't be happier for his summer student and the medical field. It can only mean good things that a young scientist and future doctor is already making such big strides, he says.

"The irony is that we currently need clinician-scientists more than

ever," said Oudit. "The early involvement in research allows medical students to explore their full potential and often brings early success."

Lo says she is thinking about doing the MD/PhD program, which allows students to obtain both an MD degree and a PhD degree and prepares them for a career as a clinician-scientist.

She still has time to make the decision. Until then, the summer research student, who is supported by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the Alberta Innovates—Health Solutions Summer Studentship program, will continue work in Oudit's lab and further develop her knowledge.

"Without the research, we won't be able to get new drugs or new understanding of how everything works in the body," said Lo. ■

Folio Staff

As of May 30, Faculty of Extension Continuing Education online registration is now available on Bear Tracks.

All users of Bear Tracks will notice a new "Continuing Education" menu. This will allow all university students and staff to search for and register into continuing education

classes offered by the Faculty of Extension. Prospective students can search and register for classes offered by the Faculty of Extension. Continuing Education fall and winter courses will be open for registration on June 15.

On April 4, Faculty of Extension programs and student records were moved into PeopleSoft Campus Solutions. ■

Continuing Ed online registration now available on Bear Tracks

classified ads

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Recent speech grad turns pro fitness athlete

Jeff Morris

Crystal Heck may be a tough fitness competitor, but the University of Alberta pathology student wasn't afraid to shed a tear when she was announced as the winner at the 2011 Canadian Natural Physique Championships in Quebec.

"When my name was announced, the tears just started flowing. I felt on top of the world," says the final year master of speech-language pathology student from the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. "I had just accomplished in three years what many bodybuilding and fitness athletes may work at for 10 to 15 years and still not achieve. I will remember that day and the way I felt for the rest of my life."

Heck placed first in both the Fitness Short and Overall Fitness categories, and received her fitness Pro

Card from the International Federation of Body Building, one of only two fitness Pro Cards handed out each year in Canada.

Heck competed for the first time at the 2008 Northern Alberta Bodybuilding Championships and placed first in her height category. Heck credits the president of the Alberta Bodybuilding Association, David Leung, with inspiring her to commit to the sport. "David told me that I had a lot of potential and that I should stick with it."

Growing up an active child in Edgerton, the competitive spirit was ever-present in Heck. That competitive drive is what drew her to fitness competitions as a college student. Throughout her success as an emerging fitness professional, her sights remained set on the speech-language pathology program at the U of A. Heck enrolled and began working on

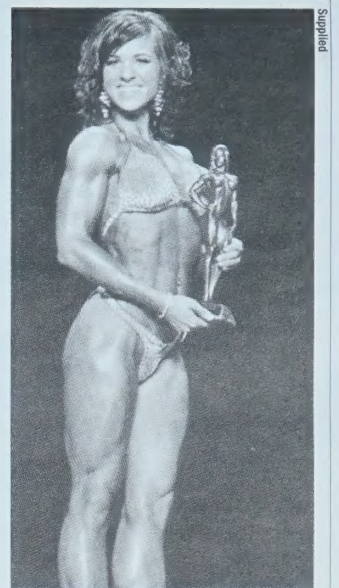
her master's degree in 2009.

The first half of 2011 has been a whirlwind of success for Heck. After getting married in January, the newlywed trained in Mexico during her honeymoon before writing her master's certification exam a mere seven days prior to winning the championship in Laval, Quebec.

Heck enjoys her new status as a professional athlete but her career ambitions remain the same. "I am interested in personal training and I enjoy helping people in my free time, but my true career passion is to work as a speech pathologist."

She is now gearing up for the next phase of her competitive career. "My trainers have convinced me to compete and make my professional debut at the Toronto Pro Super Show in June."

"It is an amazing opportunity to step onto a Pro Stage and get my name out there." ■



Crystal Heck won the 2011 Canadian Natural Physique Championships in Quebec.

“When my name was announced, the tears just started flowing. I felt on top of the world.”

Crystal Heck

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on Express News at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until June 24

The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards. This exhibition of postcards is from the settlement and urbanization of the Canadian Northwest. The Peel's Prairie Provinces postcard collection contains thousands of fascinating and informative images, including personalized views of first houses, farms and family groups, as well as important events, disasters and buildings. Admission is free. Exhibition catalogues are available for \$25. Noon–4:30 p.m. Lower level, South Rutherford Library.

June 5 & 12

Opera NUOVA Presents: Masterclass Series and Intro Into Opera. This series offers the public an opportunity to see the work it takes to become a great singer. For more information go to www.vocalartsfestival.ca

June 6

CIHR Overview. Greg Huyer, deputy director, knowledge creation programs at Canadian Institutes of Health Research, will be providing details to researchers about how to apply to CIHR, how the peer review process works, etc. 10:30–11:30 a.m. Education South 106 Education Centre, North & South. To register go to <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=5132>

June 7

Compassion and Care. The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre invites you to attend a one-day symposium on compassion and care. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 5th Floor, Stollery Executive Development Centre, Alberta School of Business.

Women's Words: Fantastic Faculty Reading. Come and hear readings by instructors of Women's Words: Summer Writing Week. Organized by Greenwood's Bookshoppe and Calgary Spoken Word Society. Tickets: \$5 per person available at the door. 7:30–9 p.m. The Artery Aherhart Centre.

June 8

"SEE the research at work" Seminar Series. Geo-environmental engineering professor Ania Ulrich Fate will be on hand to present "Transport of Process Affected Water in Out-of-Pit Tailings Ponds in the Oil Sands Industry in Canada." With proven oil reserves of 174 billion barrels and producing approximately 1 million barrels of oil per day, the oil sands industry is rapidly expanding in the northern Athabasca region of Alberta. It was estimated in 2008, that 720 million cubic metres of fluid fine tailings were stored in the Athabasca oilsands region. A challenge faced in the design of out-of-pit tailings ponds is the presence of regionally occurring buried sand channels that may act as preferential flow paths of PA water seepage. Noon–1:30 p.m. Stollery Executive Development Centre, Room 5-40. Alberta School of Business.

June 9

National Film Board presents "McLuhan's Wake." Marshall McLuhan's intellectual and cultural contributions are explored in this film. 6:30 p.m., Stanley Milner Library Theatre, Churchill Square. Admission is free. 6:30 p.m.

Media vs. Reality: Free Markets and Farmers' Suicides. Palagummi Sainath, one of the U of A's 2011 honorary degree recipients and one of the world's foremost experts on poverty and hunger, will discuss issues of rural poverty in India, as well international development issues and the ways in which all of us play a role. 7:30 p.m. 150 TELUS Centre.

June 10

Campus Sustainability Tour. Witness first hand some of the innovative sustainability features on campus. Everyone is welcome to attend this 1.5-hour glimpse into the efforts the U of A is making to reduce its ecological impact. The tour starts at 2-06 North Powerplant and continues on a walking tour of campus. 3–4:30 p.m. 2-06 North Power Plant.

June 15

Looking at Winning Theme 1 CIHR Open Operating Grant Competition Applications. Three theme 1 applications that ranked at the top of their committee in the CIHR OOGC will be examined during this session to help us identify the characteristics of winning applications. To register go to <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=5079> 10:30–11:55 a.m.

212.14 University of Alberta Hospital (Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre).

Applying for SSHRC Insight Grants Program – Videoconference. This video conference will cover the new Insight Grants Program which replaces the Standard Research Grants Program. 12:30–2:30 p.m. Room 134 TELUS Centre. To register go to <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=5086>

June 16

President's Staff Appreciation Picnic. In recognition of contributions made by U of A Staff, President Indira Samarasekera will host her annual staff appreciation picnic. 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Quad Alumni Walk. <http://www.president.ualberta.ca/2011PresidentStaffAppreciationPicnic>

Birds of a feather

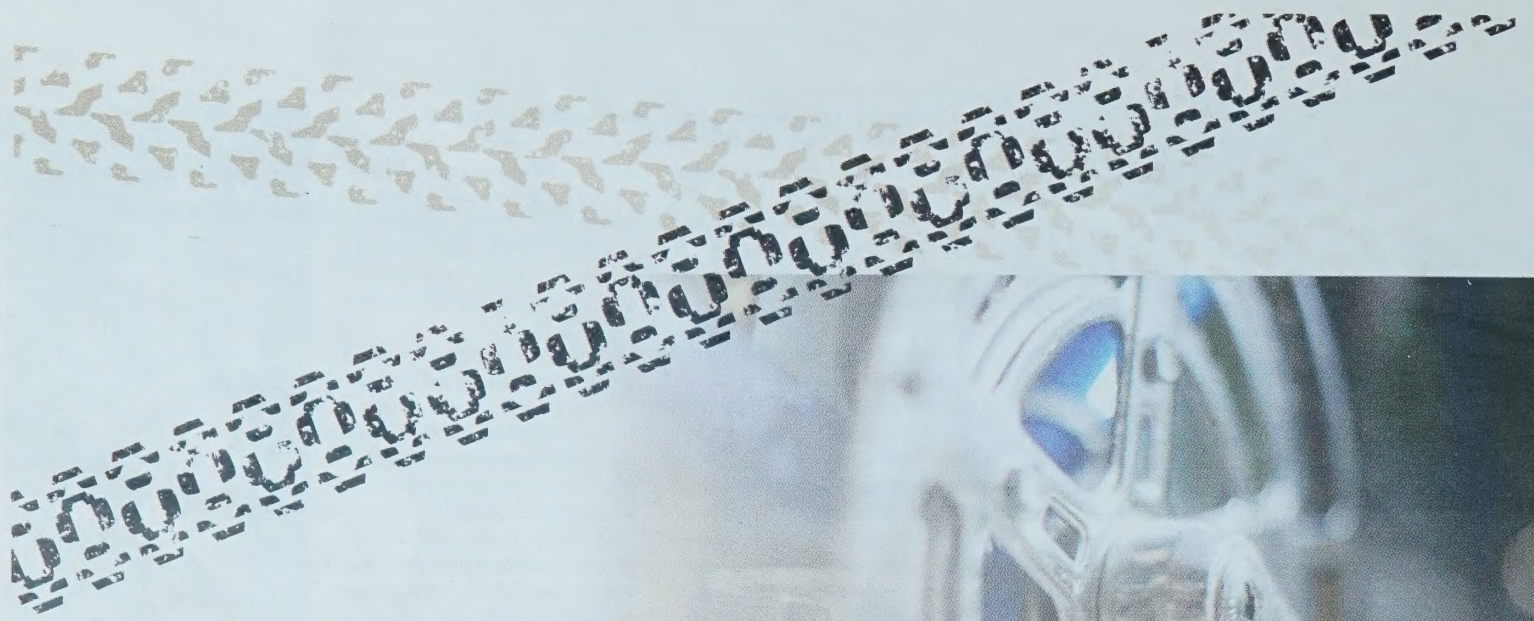
Exhibit curator Merle Patchett installs "Fashioning Feathers" at the FAB Gallery. The exhibit explores the complex geographies of collection, production and consumption behind the making of such feather fashions. The exhibit runs until June 11.

(Photos by Andriko Lozowy)



Making Tracks

On Campus



the
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